



## Women in Water Science Diplomacy Day: A Special Experience Exchange Event to Mark Women in Diplomacy Day 2024

Pre-Registration Required Here:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcquuugriwrHtTmbbfioN2Ahae\\_X-xwppn](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcquuugriwrHtTmbbfioN2Ahae_X-xwppn)

Monday, June 24, 2024 | 9:00 Mexico City/ 10:00 Dallas/ 19:00 Cairo / 21:00 Almaty | Online





In honor of the [second anniversary of the International Day of Women in Diplomacy](#), the Permanent Forum of Binational Waters and the Women in Water Diplomacy Network, with partners from the Environmental Law Institute, the Stockholm International Water Institute and the Central Arizona Project will host a special online event bringing our communities together to discuss and elevate the importance of **Science Diplomacy** in transboundary water cooperation and management.

Participation at this event is open to our communities, supporters, and partners. **Pre-registration is required. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.** Spanish-English interpretation has been graciously volunteered by the Permanent Forum of Binational Waters.

**The Women in Water Diplomacy Network** (WWDN) is a community of practice comprised of both formal and informal women decision-makers and experts, representing a wealth of collective experience and expertise in transboundary water management and decision-making engaged in some of the most water insecure regions of the world. The Network is a global community of women water leaders, and male champions supporting gender equality, working collectively to strengthen women's leadership in transboundary water decision-making supported by the Environmental Law Institute, the Stockholm International Water Institute's Shared Waters Partnership program, and regional partners. Networks are currently active in the Nile (since 2017), Central Asia-Afghanistan (since 2021); North American (launched in late 2023); the Orange-Senqu and Southern African basin Networks are under development, and most recently a branch in the South Caucasus was initiated. Exploratory discussions are also underway in Latin America. In 2023, the Network commemorated the first anniversary of the newly launched International Women in Diplomacy Day with an [event co-convoked with partners at the U.S. Institute of Peace](#). Special thanks to the Central Arizona Project, a proud member of the [North American Women in Water Diplomacy Network](#), for their targeted support to this activity.

**The Permanent Forum of Binational Waters** is a dynamic network of experts that shares a holistic, socialized and science-based understanding of the binational waters shared by the United States and Mexico. The Forum is a Network of scientists, government officials, non-government organization members, and citizens working to disseminate scientific knowledge and to integrate collaboration efforts across and along the US-Mexico border to strengthen sustainable use of water resources shared by the United States and Mexico. **The Women in Science Initiative** is part of the core initiatives of the Permanent Forum of Binational Waters. The objective is to highlight the research and work undertaken by women leaders in science working towards the improvement of the resilience of the shared water resources systems between Mexico and the United States border region.

**Times in the below program are in Central Standard Time. Please check start times in your local time zone below.**

TIME (CST)	MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2024 AGENDA
9:45-10:00	<p><b>Virtual Coffee Break:</b> Before the meeting officially starts, the online meeting space will be opened early for participants to check their online connections and have informal discussions before the official start time. <b>Please join us!</b></p> 
10:00 - 10:15	<p><b>Welcome to this special Women in (Water Science) Diplomacy Day joint community event!</b>  <b>Dr. Rosario Sanchez</b>, Director, Permanent Forum of Binational Waters; and  <b>Elizabeth A. Koch</b>, Women in Water Diplomacy Network Process Support Team Lead and Senior Manager, Environmental Law Institute</p> 
10:15-10:25	<p><b>Who is in the room? – interactive online participant exercise:</b>  Facilitated by <b>Jesse Ferraioli</b>, Research Associate, Environmental Law Institute and <b>Montserrat Santibanez</b>, Permanent Forum of Binational Waters</p> 
10:25-11:00	<p><b>Experience Exchange: The Role of Science Diplomacy in Water Diplomacy</b>  Facilitated by <b>Dr. Elia M. Tapia</b>, faculty professor at Universidad de Sonora in Hermosillo, Mexico</p>  <p><b>Invited Expert Reflections from:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. América Lutz Ley</b>, Professor, El Colegio de Sonora, Mexico</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Florence Grace Adongo</b>, Executive Director, Nile Basin Initiative, Uganda</li> <li>• <b>Rosa Long</b>, Chairwoman, Ten Tribes Partnership and Vice-chairwoman, Cocopah Indian Tribe</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Sarah Kapnick</b>, Chief Scientist, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, United States</li> <li>• <b>Suray Charyyeva</b>, Junior Researcher, Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Development in Countries in Transition, Turkmenistan</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Yolanda Lopez-Maldonado</b>, Indigenous Mayan science diplomat, Mexico</li> </ul>
11:00-11:15	<p><b>Open Q&amp;A – Session participants are welcome join in the discussion!</b></p>
11:15-11:20	<p><b>Group Screenshot/Picture: No meeting is complete without one!</b></p>
11:20 - 11:25	<p><b>Closing Reflection</b>  <b>Brenda Burman</b>, General Manager, Central Arizona Project</p>
11:25-11:30	<p><b>Exit Poll - Please complete the Exit Poll before departing!</b></p> <p><i>We will keep the line open for 15 minutes after the session conclusion for any informal discussion.</i></p> 

**Speaker Biographies: alphabetical order by first name**

**Dr. América Lutz Ley** (Mexico) is the General Academic Director and Professor-Researcher at El Colegio de Sonora, in Hermosillo, Mexico. She holds a PhD in Arid Lands Resource Sciences with a minor in global change from the University of Arizona, and a Master's degree in social sciences with concentration in public affairs from El Colegio de Sonora. She is also a member of the National Researchers' System in Mexico (SNII), as well as a recognized professor by the Mexican Ministry of Education's Professors Professional Development Program in Higher Education. Her research focuses on the dynamics of human adaptation to climate change; water security management; and mining and agrarian extractivism. She analyzes these aspects from socio-ecological systems approaches, political ecology, feminist political ecology, and institutions and public management. She has published more than 35 indexed and peer-reviewed articles and chapters in English and Spanish and currently participates in two projects financed by the Council of Humanities, Sciences, and Technologies in Mexico (CONAHCYT) on these topics.



**Brenda Burman** (United States) joined Central Arizona Project in 2021 and has been the general manager since January 2023. Burman has more than 25 years of experience working on Western water and natural resource issues, where she has been committed to finding collaborative solutions to secure reliable water supplies for communities, farms, tribes and the environment. Before joining CAP, Burman was the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation and the first woman to hold that position. Burman has served in many other areas of the water community: in private legal practice; as the water and energy counsel for U.S. Senator Jon Kyl; as senior water advisor to an environmental organization; and in senior positions for water districts. Burman holds a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Arizona College of Law and is licensed to practice law in Arizona, Colorado, and Wyoming.



**Elia M. Tapia** (Mexico) is a faculty professor at Universidad de Sonora in Hermosillo, Mexico. She holds a Ph.D. in Arid Lands Resource Sciences and a Minor Degree in Hydrology from the University of Arizona. Elia has thirteen years of experience in applied hydrology, hydrogeology, climate change studies, and disaster risk assessment. She has been contributing to the United States-Mexico efforts on the Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Program (TAAP) for over 12 years, among many other projects for private and public institutions in the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Elia has been recently involved in projects for the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and IDB Invest, including the Transboundary Regional Plan for Drinking Water, Basic Sanitation and Solid Waste Management for the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization. Her areas of interest involve water governance, climate change, stakeholder engagement, and water resources management, particularly in transboundary settings.



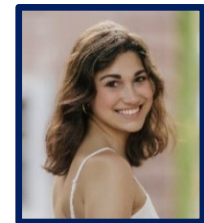
**Elizabeth A. Koch** (United States) serves as the Senior Manager for International Programs at the Environmental Law Institute (ELI) and leads the Women in Water Diplomacy Network's Process Support Team, supporting the Network's development since inception. Elizabeth has over 15 years of experience supporting water diplomacy engagements in conflict sensitive basins on behalf of ELI, SIWI's Shared Waters Partnership programme, the UNESCO Category II International Centre for Water Cooperation, and EcoPeace Middle East. Elizabeth holds a MA in Government, Diplomacy and Strategy and BA in International Relations.



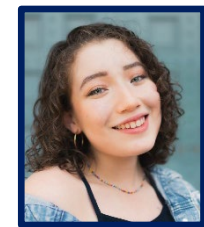
**Dr. Florence Grace** (Uganda) is the Executive Director of the Nile Basin Initiative and serves as the current President of the Africa Network of Basins Organisation (ANBO). She is an accomplished water and environment resources management professional with an experience of 37 years in the public sector (30 years spent in the water domain and 7 in the field of higher education). Among the positions held in the water domain in Uganda are: Director, Water Resource Management, Commissioner of Water Quality Management Department and Assistant Commissioner in the same Department. She was also the Principal Technical Advisory Committee member for Uganda on two main Nile Basin Initiative Governance Bodies; Nile and Nile Equatorial Lakes Technical Advisory Committees (2015-2023). Dr. Adongo also served as the Vice-Chair for the Uganda Public Service Directors, Commissioners and Under Secretaries Forum by the time of her appointment to her current position. She holds a Master’s of Science in Water and Environmental Resources Management from IHE-Delft Institute of Water Education, Netherlands, a Masters in Business Administration (Executive) from Eastern and Southern East African Institute in Arusha, Tanzania, and a Doctorate in Business Administration, majoring in water optimization from the Atlantic International University, U.S.A.



**Jesse Ferraioli** (United States) is a Research Associate at the Environmental Law Institute (ELI). She holds a BA in Environmental Studies and Philosophy from Dartmouth College. At ELI, she assists Elizabeth with the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and has worked on projects spanning from the use of natural infrastructure in hazard mitigation to the evaluation of California's Tribal consultation policies. For her senior thesis, Jesse researched the role of the U.S. Forest Service in safeguarding groundwater and cultural resources from uranium contamination in northern Arizona.



**Montserrat Santibanez** (United States) is the new Coordinator of the Women in Science Initiative at the Permanent Forum of Binational Waters. She holds a B.A. in International Relations and Global Studies, a B.A in Theatre and Dance, a Bridging Disciplines Program Certificate in Human Rights and Social Justice, and a Portuguese Flagship Program Certificate from the University of Texas in Austin (UT - Austin). At UT - Austin she worked alongside Dr. David Eaton, the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality, and the Secretaría de Medio Ambiente de Coahuila on the initial phases of the Programa Ríos Vivos in Coahuila, Mexico



**Rosa J. Long** (Cocopah Indian Tribe) is the Vice-Chairwoman and Acting Secretary/Treasurer for the Cocopah Indian Tribe serving a 6th term. She also represents the Cocopah Indian Tribe as Chairwoman for The Ten Tribes Water Partnership (Upper and Lower Basin Tribes) and Five Tribes Water Coalition (Lower Basin Tribes) all intended to assist tribes to develop and protect tribal water resources and to address technical, legal, economic and important issues related to the management and operation of our precious Colorado River. Vice-Chairwoman Long is currently serving on CRWUA Resolution Committee, and on the Board of Trustees for CRWUA representing the lower basin tribes for Ten Tribes Partnership. In addition, Vice Chair Long is the Secretary of the Indian Gaming of Arizona and is serving a third term as Secretary for Inter-Tribal Association of Arizona (ITAA), which is an advocacy organization associated with the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA). She also serves as Chairwoman for Healing Journey, in Yuma, Arizona an organization that provides therapy and support programs to those affected by sex trafficking, domestic violence, child abuse trauma providing individuals with the necessary tools to live enriching and fulfilling lives. Ms. Long has also previously served on Cocopah Indian Tribe boards such as housing, education and currently on the Cocopah Veterans Committee.



**Dr. Rosario Sanchez** (United States) is a Senior Research Scientist at the Texas Water Resources and Associate Graduate Faculty of the Water Management and Hydrological Sciences Program at Texas A&M University. She is Co-Chair of the Transboundary Aquifers Commission of the International Association of Hydrogeologists and, Founder and Director of the Permanent Forum of Binational Waters. She is the PI of the Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Act Program (TAAP) for the state of Texas, founder of the Transboundary Water Portal and leader of the transboundary groundwater research team. She published the first complete map of transboundary aquifers between Mexico and the United States in 2021 and coined the term “transboundariness” that defines the strategic value of an aquifer that happens to be located at the border between two or more countries. She has 25 years of academic and work experience on transboundary issues between Mexico and the United States both in the academia and the public sector. She is Associate Editor of the Journal of the American Water Resources Association, the Journal of Environmental Management and the Texas Water Journal. She has served at international panels and committees at UNESCO, International Groundwater Resources Assessment Center (IGRAC) and the International Water Resources Association (IWRA). She has a bachelor’s degree in International Relations from Monterrey Tech, a Master’s degree in Diplomacy from the Institute of Diplomatic Studies Matias Romero (Foreign Service Academy), and a PhD in Water Management and Hydrological Sciences from Texas A&M University.



**Dr. Sarah Kapnick** (United States) is chief scientist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). In this role, Dr. Kapnick is responsible for advancing policy and program direction for NOAA’s science and technology priorities. Dr. Kapnick has extensive experience at the intersection of climate science and economics. Most recently, she served as a managing director at J.P. Morgan in the role of senior climate scientist and sustainability strategist for asset and wealth management. While at J.P. Morgan, she supported sustainability and climate action efforts and served as an advisor on new business and investment opportunities and risks. Previously, Dr. Kapnick was a physical scientist and deputy division leader on seasonal to decadal variability and predictability at NOAA’s Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory (GFDL). At GFDL, her work spanned seasonal climate prediction, mountain snowpack, extreme storms, water security and climate impacts. She was an expert and reviewer for NOAA’s Small Business Innovation Research Program, a member of its Eastern Region Climate Team, a science panelist for Climate.gov and the NOAA team lead for the NASA High Mountain Asia Team. Dr. Kapnick is a member of the American Geophysical Union, American Meteorological Society and American Association for the Advancement of Science. Prior to her graduate studies, she spent two years as an investment banking analyst with Goldman Sachs covering financial institutions. She received a Ph.D. in atmospheric and oceanic sciences with a certificate in leaders in sustainability from UCLA, and an A.B in mathematics with a certificate in finance from Princeton University.



**Suray Charyyeva** (Turkmenistan) is a Junior researcher at the Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Development in Countries in Transition, specialising in sustainable agricultural practices in Central Asia. She is actively involved in the Central Asia Research Group, studying topics such as gender dynamics, crop diversification, water management, agricultural trade, etc. In addition, Suray cooperates with Turkmen institutions, offering expertise in agricultural economics at the Dakhsoguz Agricultural Institute. She also mentors female students at the International University of Humanities and Development in an effort to empower the next generation of leaders. Through her diverse activities, Suray demonstrates a commitment to sustainable development and inclusiveness in Central Asia's agricultural sector.



**Dr. Yolanda Lopez-Maldonado** (Mexico) is an Indigenous Maya woman from Mexico and science diplomat, working on the social dimensions of water conservation. Her career has spanned several topics from both natural & social sciences pertaining to the science-society-policy interphase. She has worked for academic/non-academic organizations and achieved high-level results in diplomatic environments at different levels in social issues and science fields including UNESCO, UNPFII, CBD, ICCROM, IPBES, IUCN, fostering debates about how science (Western and Indigenous) can build trust between nations & support foreign policies. Her fields of expertise include in-depth knowledge of theories, frameworks, methods, and analytical techniques to investigate complex systems undergoing global change. A Young Scholar from the Beijer Institute of Ecological Economics, The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, and fellow of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Dr. Lopez-Maldonado received a PhD degree in Human Geography from the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Germany.

